Soil Erodibility (K) Factor

The soil erodibility factor "K" indicates the susceptibility of a soil to sheet and rill erosion by water. Soil properties that influence erodibility by water are: (1) Those that affect infiltration rate, movement of water through the soil, and water storage capacity; and (2) those that resist dispersion, splashing, abrasion, and transporting forces from rainfall and runoff. Soil properties that are most important are percent silt plus very fine sand, percent organic matter, percent sand coarser than very fine sand, structure, and permeability. The soil erodibility factor "K" groups are listed in the table "Physical Properties of Soils" in Section II-(iii)-J.